



**PRINCE GEORGE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 2242 • PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. V2N 2J8 • (250) 563-0303 • (250) 563-0318

To The City of Prince George

I am writing this letter in hopes that there will be serious consideration of re-opening the Elks arena prior to October 2021. The Elks is an intricate part of PGMHA being able to fully facilitate youth hockey in our city. Our association took a drastic reduction in ice allocation last year due to Covid and we were able to work with this due to the fact that we were not allowed to play any games. We require a minimum of 152 hours per week just to operate basic regular programs for recreation and Representative hockey. We have recreational hockey teams, Zone teams, BC hockey teams and Cariboo Cougars to work with that are all scheduled by Prince George Minor Hockey.

If the Elks centre remains closed, we will not have any ice for tournaments or other events in our city, and will struggle to provide our planned existing programs such as our new Northern Female Development initiative, goalie clinics, and regular games. As things sit now, we may have to send our scheduled home games for our North Central District to Quesnel and Williams Lake which is less than ideal just to fulfill our league requirements. We will currently have no ice for our teams to host home tournaments which is a major source of revenue for these teams as well as bringing in stimulus to our local economy throughout the winter months. Our registration is sitting at 550 kids and we are on pace to have 900-1000 kids back in hockey for the upcoming season and we simply cannot provide enough ice without the Elks arena being open.

As the President of Prince George Minor Hockey, I am looking forward to getting kids back on the ice and seeing light at the end of this long tunnel. I strive to provide the best product that we can, and I hope that City Council as well as staff will make every effort to re-open facilities as long as provincial guidelines allow.

Sincerely,

Glynis Vennberg,  
President, PGMHA